

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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SUBJECT: SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL) - - HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS

SUMMARY: RAPPORTEUR INTRODUCED REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY ON DEC 3, NOTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT AGAINST CERTAIN MISSIONS AND ALSO THAT THE HOST COUNTRY HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT AUTHORITIES WILL DO THEIR BEST TO PREVENT RECURRENCES. ON DEC 7, COMMITTEE BEGAN DEBATE OF THE ITEM AND HEARD STATEMENTS BY US AND USSR. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RAPPORTEUR INTRODUCED THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY BY NOTING "WITH REGRET" THAT, AS LAST YEAR, THE MAIN SUBJECT CONCERNED COMPLAINTS ABOUT INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT AGAINST CERTAIN MISSIONS. HOWEVER, THE RAPPORTEUR STRESSED THAT REPORT WAS BALANCED BY MORE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND NOTED THAT THE HOST COUNTRY HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT AUTHORITIES WILL DO THEIR BEST TO PREVENT RECURRENCES. MISSIONS WERE URGED TO COOPERATE WITH THE HOST COUNTRY AUTHORITIES AND WERE REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE HOST COUNTRY.

2. COMMITTEE BEGAN DEBATE OF ITEM DEC. 7. IN OPENING STATEMENT, US (SOBER) REAFFIRMED USG COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE CONDITIONS PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE UN.

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NOTING OUR BELIEF THAT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF MISSIONS

FIND NEW YORK AN EFFICIENT AND INTERESTING PLACE IN WHICH TO WORK, HE DEPLORED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CERTAIN MISSIONS WHICH WERE EXCEPTION TO RULE. SAID US CONDEMNED CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST MISSIONS AND WAS DETERMINED TO APPREHEND, PROSECUTE AND PUNISH THOSE GUILTY. NOTING THAT OUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD MUST BE PURSUED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF US CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, REMARKED THAT SOMETIMES WE ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN CONVICTIONS BECAUSE CRUCIAL (DIPLOMATIC) WITNESSES ARE UNWILLING TO TESTIFY. US REP THEN POINTED TO RECENT APPREHENSION AND PROSECUTION BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES OF SEVERAL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SERIOUS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST TWO PERMANENT MISSIONS DURING THE PRESENT YEAR; SEVERAL DEFENDANTS HAD VERY RECENTLY PLEADED GUILTY TO CERTAIN CHARGES AGAINST THEM, WHICH CONSTITUTE FELONIES UNDER FEDERAL LAW. CALLED THE ATTENTION OF STATES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY, WHICH REPRESENTED A COMPROMISE HAMMERED OUT DURING MANY WEEKS OF NEGOTIATION; ALTHOUGH REPORT OF THE HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE DOES NOT IN OUR VIEW ACCURATELY REFLECT IN ALL RESPECTS WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY SITUATION IN NEW YORK, WE HAD JOINED IN ITS ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE.

3. USSR SAID REPORT NOTES MANY VIOLENT ATTACKS ON VARIOUS MISSIONS. SAID NUMBER OF INCIDENTS HAD INCREASED SINCE LAST GA. GAVE EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS, INCLUDING SHOOTINGS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND THREATS. SAID CRIMINALS ARE WELL KNOWN BUT REMAIN AT LARGE; CHARGED US GOVERNMENT WITH COLLUSION WITH THE PERPETRATORS. SAID FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE DID NOT INCLUDE ALLOWING COMMISSION OF CRIMES. SAID VIENNA CONVENTION CODIFIED RIGHT OF DIPLOMATS TO REFUSE TO TESTIFY. URGED SIXTH COMMITTEE TO CONDEMN THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF ZIONIST AND OTHER CRIMINAL ELEMENTS AND TO DENOUNCE HOST COUNTRY FOR FAILURE TO TAKE SUFFICIENT STEPS TO END THESE ATTACKS.
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